

Vaughan Gething AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ81984

Dai Lloyd MS  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

9 February 2021

Dear Dai,

I am writing in response to WQ81984: What evidence does the Welsh Government hold to suggest that there is, or will be, a shortage of medical radioisotopes that cannot be met by the existing, or planned, cyclotron capacity?

Between now and 2030, five of the European research reactors, which collectively produce 64% of the global supply of medical radioisotopes will cease production. There is currently no viable replacement programmes for these reactors.

In the UK around 85% of health interventions which use medical radioisotopes are diagnostic in nature. Reactor produced Technetium-99m (Tc-99m) accounts for 72% of imaging procedures in the UK. The majority of UK medical scanning is therefore designed for Tc-99m interventions.

The Rolls-Royce (2020) report, commissioned by Welsh Government Office for Science, indicates that only an indigenous reactor based solution is capable of producing the yield and range of isotopes necessary to ensure a secure and uninterrupted supply for the UK.

Yours sincerely,

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.